

## **REMARKS**

### **Overview**

Claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 12-25 and 28-29 remain in the application. Claims 9, 17 and 29 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species. By this amendment, claims 1, 5, 12 and 20 have been amended, and claims 2-4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 26, 27 and 30-34 have been cancelled. Applicants believe no new matter has been added by the amendments, full support therefore being shown in the drawings and specification as filed.

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the Examiner's determination of allowability of claim 25 if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have presented claim 25, rewritten in independent form, as new claim 35. Additionally, new claim 36 is presented, depending from and further distinguishing claim 35.

All claims remaining in the application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

### **Claim Rejections**

Claims 1-3, 7, 12, 16, 20, 26, 28 and 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Hansen, DE 20302572 ("Hansen"). Claims 12-16, 18-24, 26, 28, and 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Uihlein, U.S. Patent No. 7,082,783 ("Uihlein"). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Hansen. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, and request reconsideration of the claims.

### **Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-3, 7, 12, 16, 20, 26, 28 and 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Hansen. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, and request reconsideration of the claims.

"For anticipation of the 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present." MPEP § 706.02 IV.

The drawings of Hansen depict a shelf 18 which appears to be stowable in a vertical orientation along the front face 12 of a drawer 13. Pins 17 attached to a bottom surface of shelf 18 appear to be captured within channels 14/15, such that the shelf 18 is not detachable from the channels. As such, the shelf appears to be movable by lifting along a vertical plane until the channels limit further movement of the pins, and then rotating the shelf into a horizontal position along the top opening of the drawer.

Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 1, 12 and 20 are not anticipated by Hansen. Claims 1, 12 and 20 each recite a shelf slidably movable between a horizontal forward position to cover an interior of said drawer when said drawer is in an open position and a horizontal rearward position to expose said interior of said drawer when said drawer is in said open position. Applicants respectfully submit that Hansen does not teach or suggest this limitation, and claims 1, 12 and 20 are allowable over Hansen for at least this reason.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7, 16 and 28 are also allowable over Hansen as depending from and further distinguishing allowable base claims. Claims 2, 3, 26, 30 and 31 have been cancelled, thereby making the §102 rejections over Hansen moot.

Claims 12-16, 18-24, 26, 28, and 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Uihlein. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, and request reconsideration of the claims.

Uihlein discloses a drawer refrigerator 12 including a cabinet 14 and two vertically aligned drawer cavities 22 and 24 in which are mounted two drawers 26 and 28. A bottle bin 48 is a molded plastic container that has a bottom and four upright walls, and has guides 50 at its sides that wrap over the top of the runners 46 to allow front to back sliding. Lower drawer 28 has a panel 66 that is removable by “lifting off”. Beneath the lift off panel 66 is a plastic storage bin 70.

Applicants respectfully submit that Uihlein does not teach or suggest a shelf mounted to said drawer, said shelf slidably movable between a horizontal forward position to cover an interior of said drawer when said drawer is in an open position and a horizontal rearward position to expose said interior of said drawer when said

drawer is in said open position, said shelf positioned below said door a predetermined distance sufficient to allow a laundry basket to be placed on said shelf when extended and to allow said door to be opened and closed with said basket on said extended shelf as provided in claim 12.

Bottle bin 48 is an open top bin that does not define a shelf, nor does it allow a laundry basket to be placed thereon. Panel 66 is a lift-off panel forming a portion of a drawer bottom. Panel 66 is not a slidably movable shelf and does not allow a laundry basket to be placed thereon. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 12 is allowable over Uihlein.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 13-16 are allowable over Uihlein for the same reasons presented with respect to claim 12, and also as depending from and further distinguishing an allowable base claim. Additionally with respect to dependent claim 13, Applicants submit that Uihlein does not include a shelf. As such, Uihlein does not have a recessed compartment in a top surface of a shelf. It follows that Uihlein does not teach an openable cover for the recessed compartment of claim 13 as recited in claim 14, or that the recessed compartment is removable from the shelf as recited in claim 15.

With respect to independent claim 18, Uihlein does not include a horizontal shelf slidably attached to a drawer, or a recessed compartment removably held in said shelf. For at least these reasons, claim 18 should be deemed allowable over Uihlein. Claim 19 should also be deemed allowable as depending from and further distinguishing an allowable base claim.

With respect to claim 20, Uihlein does not teach or suggest a shelf. Uihlein also does not teach or suggest a shelf arranged in said drawer, said shelf slidably movable between a horizontal forward position to cover an interior of said drawer when said drawer is in an open position and a horizontal rearward position to expose said interior of said drawer when said drawer is in said open position. For at least these reasons, it is submitted that claim 20 is allowable over Uihlein.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 21-25 and 28 are allowable over Uihlein for the same reasons presented with respect to claim 20, and also as depending from and further distinguishing an allowable base claim. Additionally with respect to dependent claim 21, Applicants submit that Uihlein does not include a

shelf. As such, Uihlein does not have a recessed compartment in a top surface of a shelf. It follows that Uihlein does not teach an openable cover for the recessed compartment of claim 21 as recited in claim 22, or that the recessed compartment is transparent as recited in claim 23, or removable from the shelf as recited in claim 24.

**Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Hansen. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 5 is allowable for the same reasons presented with respect to independent claim 1.

**Conclusion**

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to all of the outstanding rejections, and Applicants therefore respectfully request that this amendment be entered.

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this filing. However, please consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 23-1660.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record. Early notification of allowability is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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